

FROM: WINSTON & STRAWN LLP

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A spray-dried perfuming or flavoring microcapsule comprising at least one perfuming or flavoring ingredient dispersed in or adsorbed within a polymeric carrier material, wherein the microcapsule further comprises an effective amount of a fireproofing agent susceptible of reducing the dust hazard explosive class of the microcapsule to an St-1 classification, wherein said fireproofing agent is ~~not NaHCO₃~~ selected from the group consisting of sodium silicate, potassium silicate, monoammonium phosphate or carbonate, diammonium phosphate, mono-, di- or trisodium phosphate, sodium hypophosphite, melamine cyanurate, and mixtures thereof.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The perfuming or flavoring microcapsule according to claim 1, which comprises from 5 to 90% by weight of fireproofing agent relative to the dry weight of the microcapsule.
4. (Previously Presented) The perfuming or flavoring microcapsule according to claim 1, which comprises from 5 to 15% by weight of fireproofing agent relative to the dry weight of the microcapsule.
5. (Original) The perfuming or flavoring microcapsule according to claim 1, which comprises from 1 to 80% by weight of perfume or flavor relative to the total weight of the microcapsule.
6. (Original) The perfuming or flavoring microcapsule according to claim 1, which comprises from 1 to 50% by weight of perfume or flavor relative to the total weight of the microcapsule.

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7. (Previously presented) A method for the preparation of perfuming or flavoring microcapsules as defined in claim 1, which comprises adding the fireproofing agent to an aqueous emulsion of the perfuming or flavoring ingredient in the carrier polymeric material, and spray-drying the obtained emulsion to form a powder.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A perfumed product selected from the group consisting of a perfume, a Cologne, an after-shave lotion, a soap, a bath or shower gel, a deodorant, a body lotion, a shampoo or another hair-care product, a detergent, a fabric softener, a household cleaner and a cleaning and deodorizing block for toilet tanks, which further comprises perfuming microcapsules according to claim 1.

12. (Original) A perfumed product selected from the group consisting of a perfume, a Cologne, an after-shave lotion, a soap, a bath or shower gel, a deodorant, a body lotion, a shampoo or another hair-care product, a detergent, a fabric softener, a household cleaner and a cleaning and deodorizing block for toilet tanks, which includes perfuming microcapsules made according to the method of claim 7.

13. (Original) A food, beverage or pharmaceutical product, which includes flavoring microcapsules according to claim 1.

14. (Original) A food, beverage or pharmaceutical product, which includes flavoring microcapsules made according to the method of claim 7.

Claims 15-22. (Cancelled)

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23. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the violence of the explosion of a perfuming or flavoring microcapsule during its suspension in the air, which comprises adding a fireproof agent to said microcapsule, wherein the fireproofing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium silicate, potassium silicate, monoammonium phosphate or carbonate, diammonium phosphate, mono-, di- or trisodium phosphate, sodium hypophosphite, melamine cyanurate, and mixtures thereof.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a St-1 dust hazardous explosive classification to a dry perfuming or flavoring micro-capsule, which comprises adding an effective amount of a fireproofing agent to the microcapsules, wherein the fireproofing agent is ~~not~~ NaHCO₃, selected from the group consisting of sodium silicate, potassium silicate, monoammonium phosphate or carbonate, diammonium phosphate, mono-, di- or trisodium phosphate, sodium hypophosphite, melamine cyanurate, and mixtures thereof.